

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 17, 2004      LB 1083

It proposes to strengthen state oversight, and as we pursue the goal of transitioning persons from the state regional centers to more appropriate community-based services and avoid the overreliance on acute and secure inpatient treatment, not only because of the U.S. Supreme Court decision on Olmstead v. L.C., but because it is the right thing to do for consumers, and it is the consumer that LB 1083 is really directed at; how these people who need services...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...can get them. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments by the Health and Human Services Committee. Senator Jensen, as Chairman of that committee, you're recognized to open on those amendments to LB 1083.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. The committee amendment, AM2889, replaces the bill as introduced and makes the following changes. It broadens and clarifies the definition of "behavioral health services" to include consumer-provided services, support services, inpatient and outpatient services, and residential and nonresidential services provided for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral health disorders, and the rehabilitation of and recovery of persons with such disorders; also harmonizes the definitions of "community-based services" and "regional center services." It requires each region...mind you, let me just go back a moment. In our system of care, we have three regional centers, hospitals. We have six regions, service regions. It becomes a little difficult to understand, but of those regions, each one of you are a member or reside in one of those regions, Region I being in Scottsbluff, the Panhandle; Region VI being in eastern Nebraska. And it requires each one of those behavioral health authorities to establish and utilize a regional advisory committee consisting of consumers, providers, and other interested parties; continues to permit each region to establish and utilize other task force and committees as necessary. The amendment removes a requirement that regions divest themselves by June 30, 2006, of behavioral health services they currently